

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3964
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

UNCLAS ASUNCION 3935

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, PA
SUBJECT: STATUS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: A. ASUNCION 3795; B. ASUNCION 3771

1. HUNGER STRIKE OF PRISONERS IN EMBOSCADA AND SOME IN POLICE
PRECINCT JAILS CONTINUES INTO THIRTY-THIRD DAY. PRISONERS'
FAMILIES ARE BECOMING MORE DESPERATE AS EACH DAY PASSES AND
HUNGER-STRIKERS' PHYSICAL CONDITION DETERIORATES. FAMILIES
HAVE NOT RESUMED SYMPATHY HUNGER STRIKE OR OTHER MEASURES SINCE
THEIR EVICTION FROM PAPAL NUNCIATURA AUGUST 30 (REFTEL B).

2. GOP MOVED THREE HUNGER STRIKERS: CARLOS GUILLERMO, BRANAS
GADEA; JOSE GILL OJEDA AND OTTO GUNTHER PORTENSCHLAG
TO PRECINCT JAILS SEPTEMBER 9 VIA THE POLICE HOSPITAL. BRANAS
AND PORTENSCHLAG ARE REPORTEDLY IN THE SEVENTH AND GIL OJEDA IN THE
FOURTH PRECINCT JAIL. GOP HAS GIVEN NO REASON FOR THESE MOVES.

3. KUTATEST TRANSFERS BRING DOWN EMBOSCADA POPULATION TO SEVEN.
IN ADDITION THERE ARE NOW SEVEN POLITICAL PRISONERS IN POLICE
PRECINCT JAILS. EMBASSY NOW HAS RELIABLE REPORTS THAT THERE
ARE ALSO SIX PERSONS, FIVE PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED, IN THE
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MILITARY GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD NEXT TO TACUMBU PENITENTIARY.
THESE ARE PRISONERS SUBJECT TO ARBITRARY IMPRISONMENT
HELD WITHOUT JUDICIAL PROCESS. THEIR NAMES (AND DATE OF
DETENTION WHERE KNOWN) ARE: FERMIN ACOSTA (ARCH 1974);
RAFAEL BRITZ (1975); JOSE FELIX ORTEZ (DECEMBER 18, 1977);
DEMECIO ARMOA (FEBRUARY 3, 1974); CANTALICIA ORUE (UNKNOWN);
ESCOLASTICO OVANDO (DECEMBER 1977). ALL ARE IN TROUBLE

FRO ALLEGED CRIMINAL ACTS. TOTAL NUMBER OF PRISONERS NOW HELD
IN MANNER CONTRARY TO HUMAN RIGHTS NORMS IS TWENTY.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

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